

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A production method ~~of~~ for producing a biogas, the method comprising:

a first step of determining, according to a correlation between a concentration of a predetermined substrate in a liquid to be processed containing an organic matter and a rate of consumption of the substrate by a hydrogen-fermenting microorganism, a maximum tolerable concentration of the substrate consumable by the hydrogen-fermenting microorganism; and

a second step of generating a biogas ~~mainly composed of~~ comprised of hydrogen by causing the hydrogen-fermenting microorganism to hydrogen-ferment the liquid to be processed while keeping the substrate in the liquid to be processed at a concentration not higher than ~~the~~ a maximum tolerable concentration.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): ~~A production~~ The method of for producing a biogas according to claim 1, wherein the substrate is a glucide.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): ~~A production~~ The method of for producing a biogas according to claim 1, further comprising a third step of generating a fermentation gas ~~mainly composed~~ comprised of methane by causing a methane-fermenting microorganism to methane-ferment the fermented liquid after the hydrogen fermentation in the second step.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): ~~A production~~ The method of for producing a biogas, the method comprising the step of generating a biogas ~~mainly composed~~ comprised of hydrogen by performing hydrogen fermentation while adding a hop or hop component to a liquid to be processed containing an organic matter so as to inactivate a contaminant

microorganism inhibiting hydrogen generation without affecting a growth or activity of a hydrogen-fermenting microorganism.